

What is Organic?

Organic Certification Program



See Also:

- What Is Organic?
- Organic Production in Montana
- National Organic Program
- Organic Crop Production
- Organic Livestock Production
- Organic Handling Facilities
- Organic Certification
- How to be Certified
- Converting to Organic Production
- Sources of Organic Information

For more information, contact:

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Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. (NOSB, 1995)

- **Organic refers to a production process for agricultural products.**
- **Organic is a legal term, defined and governed by the USDA.**
- **Organic production systems include:**
 - Cultural and Mechanical Controls
 - Biological Diversity
 - Crop Rotation
 - Cover Crops and Green Manures
 - Organic Feed for Livestock
 - Intensive Management
 - Detailed Record Keeping
- **Organic production systems exclude:**
 - Genetic Engineering
 - Irradiation
 - Sewage Sludge
 - Synthetic Fertilizers and Pesticides
 - Animal Confinement
 - Growth Hormones
 - Antibiotics